

REMARKS

In the specification, paragraph [001] has been added to include a section entitled cross-reference to related application. No new matter has been added to the specification.

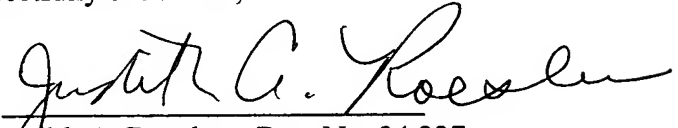
Claims 52-57, 69-75, 78-82, and 97-98 remain in the application. Claims 1-51, 58-68, 76-77, 83-96 and 99-100 have been canceled. Claims 56, 69-74 have been amended to more particularly and distinctly recite the subject matter of this invention. No new matter has been added through the amendment of these claims.

The claims presented herewith were the subject of the restriction requirement of the parent application. Applicants respectfully submit this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and that all claimed subject matter is allowable. An early action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions, Applicants representative and the undersigned attorney may be contacted by telephone at (919) 620-2915.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Judith A. Roesler – Reg. No. 34,237
bioMerieux, Inc. Patent Department
100 Rodolphe Street, Durham, NC 27712
Tel.: (919) 620-2915

September 16, 2003

Attachments